

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEK of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

### ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise on the eve of consideration of major energy legislation here in this House. And while the President seems willing to admit that America is addicted to imported oil, which is step one, recognition, he can't seem to get much further than that. In fact, during his administration, America is now importing over a billion more barrels of imported oil every year. A billion more than when he began his administration.

So admitting we have a problem is easy. You can do it at a distance. You can mention it in your State of the Union address. That doesn't solve the crisis.

Every day that the President makes another empty veto threat against energy legislation is another day for growing our trade deficit by oil. In fact, if you look at what's happening today, nearly three quarters of what we use to drive this economy that is petroleum-based is imported. And that oil import constitutes about a third of our trillion dollar trade deficit. It's a disastrous policy. It takes away America's independence. And it keeps us addicted to a lot of places in the world that don't have democratic governments in place.

Our addiction is obvious, and the solution seems just as clear. When our Nation launched its space program and we embarked upon a national effort, we developed our domestic resources and we began to move into outer space. We can do the same in energy if we were serious. From domestically produced biofuels to wind to fuel cells, hydrogen, solar power, and geothermal, as well as clean coal technologies, the potential of our market is unlimited. But it is limited by our technological and industrial imagination.

With half as many sunny days as countries like Portugal, the world's leading solar energy producer is not the United States but Germany. Germany accounts for 15 percent of worldwide sales in solar panels and other photovoltaic equipment and has 15 of

the 20 biggest solar plants. That's right. A country located in Northern Europe with no natural advantage is outperforming the rest of the world. And they are doing the same with wind power.

On wind energy, the story is much the same. Take one look at our Nation's wind map, and our wind potential is very, very clear.

This is a map of the United States, of course, with the darkest areas indicating where we are most wind rich. From rich reserves in offshore wind production along the Great Lakes to the upper plains regions whose fields howl day and night, America must act to capture that endless resource. Simply recognizing the potential is only our first step. While the United States lags behind, European companies are investing billions into our nascent wind market. As pointed out in a recent Herald Tribune article in July of 2007, a Portuguese company, Energias, paid nearly \$3 billion to buy Horizon Wind Energy from Goldman Sachs. This purchase secures their parent company, Mexia, with the fourth largest wind farm capacity in the world, behind mostly European companies like Iberdrola of Spain and another Spanish company, Acciona Energia. When is our Nation going to be serious about stepping up to energy independence and capturing some of the resources that bless our land?

The key for developing our domestic industry in both wind and solar is political leadership from here in Washington. And unless we take these needed steps, America will continue to take its lead from foreign nations, and our hopes for developing true domestic new industries along with the jobs they hold will never materialize.

Mr. President, if you are serious about solving our energy crisis, I suggest you enroll in Congress's 12-step plan for recovering from our oil addiction. We will begin some of those discussions tomorrow as the energy bill is considered. Some of the steps are contained in that bill.

It's time that we invite the President to join us in shaping a new energy future for our Nation that restores our inherent economic independence by becoming energy independent and, in so doing, secure political independence for future generations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WATERS addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

### THE ECONOMIC POTENTIAL OF A CLEAN ENERGY REVOLUTION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized

for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, I have come to the House floor tonight to really share some great news, and that doesn't always happen in this Chamber, and the great news is that this week we hope to take a major step forward in our effort to revolutionize the energy economy of America to bring it to a place where we can use the genius of Americans to break our addiction to Middle Eastern oil, to stop global warming, and to grow millions of good-paying green collar jobs in this country. And tomorrow or the next day we hope to have on the floor a bill that will take major strides in that direction to start facing these challenges and really recognizing the economic potential of a clean energy revolution for this country.

We have challenges associated with energy, but we who will bring this bill to the floor believe that we also have opportunities involving energy. And those of us who will be supporting this energy bill believe that we need to look at this from an optimistic, visionary, progressive can-do spirit. And if we hearken to the can-do spirit of Americans, we are going to revolutionize the way we create and use energy in this country. And when we do that, we are going to grow millions of jobs in the process.

If I can briefly just talk about the challenges that we face, and perhaps they are obvious, but I think it is important at least to note them, about why we need a new energy policy in this country. And let me start with the one that perhaps is most obvious to us, and that is that our addiction to Middle Eastern oil threatens our security. It's not a very wise policy. And we were just being briefed by a vice admiral of the United States Navy retired just about 15 minutes ago on this subject. He pointed out that it's not a very good strategic decision to be sending just under \$1 million a minute of our money to people who are attacking us in the Middle East.

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Funding your enemies is not known as a particularly brilliant strategic move. And Americans know that our national security is at risk as long as we are on the addiction train for the oil coming out of the Mid East.

So we know there is a security reason for our trying to move to a more energy independent position where we are less dependent on oil to run our economy.

Second, we know that global warming is a challenge. I'm certainly aware of this. I represent a district just north of Seattle. My county got 9 inches of rain in 24 hours the day before yesterday. And you will turn on your TV tonight, and you will see these floods. These floods and precipitation events are consistent with the models of what we will see more frequently in the Pacific Northwest with global warming.